(c) Statement showing state-wise distribution of population by religion, as per the 1981 and 1991 censuses and percentage increase during 1981—91 is placed below. [see Appendix 174, Annexure No. 14]

(d) Different Growth rates have been recorded for different religions during the census of 1981 & 1991 as per details given below:—

S. No.	Name of Religion	Percentage increase during 1981—91*
1.	Hindus	22.78
2.	Muslims	32.76
3.	Christians	16.89
4.	Sikhs	25.48
5.	Buddhists	35.98
6.	Jains	4.42
7.	Other religions & persuasions	13.19

*Excludes Assam and Jammu & Kashmir.

As regards reaction of the Government to increase in population of some religion, it may be mentioned that the fertility depends upon several factors like level of Female literacy/education, economic status of the family, residence urban/rural, status of women in the section of society, infant mortality rate etc. The decadal increase in population by religion reflected in the 1991 census is a macro level picture and in-depth analysis, isolating other factors contributing the fertility, would be required before drawing a co-relation between fertility/increase in population with religion.

The National Family Welfare Programme provides information and service irrespective of religion, as also irrespective of other personal factors like caste, creed, socio economic status etc.

Speedy Delivery of Posts

376. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the policies made by the Department of Post for speedy delivery of posts to rural and urban areas of the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that letters envelops reach in villages after weeks and stamps which are affixed by the despatching/receiving post offices are not put clearly and no one can read date of putting stamps; and

(c) if so, what corrective steps are contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Department has laid down broad norms for mail services both in rural and urban areas of the country. These are:

(i) Pin-Coded letters posted in Metro cities namely, Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Hyderabad and Bangalore and bound for another Metro city are to be delivered within 48 hours.

(ii) Pin-Coded letters between Delhi and State Capitals other than the Metro cities mentioned at (i) above are to be delivered within 48 hours.

(iii) Letters between cities connected by air flights, other than those mentioned at (i) and (ii) above are to be delivered within 72 hours.

(iv) Letters within a state are to be delivered within 48—72 hours.

(v) Letters within the district are to be delivered within 48 hours.

These broad norms are subject to satisfaction of specified conditions and do not cover remote and difficult areas.

(b) Department makes every effort to deliver letters according to the norms. However, some delays due to reasons beyond the control of the Department cannot be ruled out.

Every effort is made by the Department to impress legibly stamps of date and place of posting and day of delivery so that the transit time can be found out. However, because of the high volume of mails and manual nature of the job, stamps are some-times indistinct.

(c) Remedial steps are taken where delays are noticed and field officials are instructed to closely monitor transmission and delivery of mails and ensure proper stamping of letters.

कम्प्यूटर आपरेटरों के लिए कम्प्यूटर भत्ता

377. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी सोलंकी:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या संसद भवन के रेल आरक्षण कार्यालय में नियुक्त कर्मचारियों द्वारा उन्हें कम्प्यूटर भत्ता देने और सरकार द्वारा उसे क्रियान्वित किए जाने के संबंध में सांसदों के माध्यम से एक संयुक्त अभ्यावेदन भेजा गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है और क्या सरकार ने उनकी मांगों की जांच की है;

(ग) क्या इन कर्मचारियों को कम्प्यूटर प्रचालन भत्ता नहीं दिया जा रहा है जबकि रेलविभाग के अन्य कर्मचारियों को यह भत्ता दिया जा रहा है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो सरकार द्वारा इस संबंध में अब तक क्या कदम उठाए गए है?

रेल मंत्री (श्री सी॰ के॰ जाफर शरीफ): (क) और (ख) रेल मंत्रालय के नोटिस में ऐसा कोई अभ्यावेदन नहीं आया है।

(ग) आरक्षण कार्यालयों में कहीं भी कम्प्यूटरों पर कार्यरत किसी भी कर्मचारी को कम्प्यूटर भत्ते का भुगतान नहीं किया जाता है।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Proposal to lay Rail Lines between Rayagada and Gopalpur, Orissa

378. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to lay a rail line between Rayagada and Gopalpur in Orissa;

(b) whether that proposal is expected to be implemented during the remaining period of 8th Plan; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Denudation of Forests in Eastern States

379. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that massive denudation and destruction of rain forests in the Eastern States in the Hills in Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Bindhya ranges and Eastern ghats and Western ghats are causing a green-house effect with ecological and climate changes;

(b) whether new approach to modern industrialisation in these areas is also causing havoc to the natural eco-balance system; and

(c) If so, whether Government plan to do immediately to restrain the process of complete denudation of forests and restore natural eco-balance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) According to the State of Forest Report, 1993, the total forest cover of the country as per 1993 assessment has increased by 1560 sq. km in comparision to 1991 assessment. The forest area has marginally decreased in the States/Union Territories of Maharashtra, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Goa, Daman & Diu only whereas in other States/Union Territories either forest cover has increased or remained unchanged. However, no report of massive denudation and destruction of rain forests in the Eastern States in the Hills in Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Bindhya ranges and